

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-22 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all features of Claim 4 and Claim 4 is canceled.

No new matter, which may need new search, has been introduced and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)**

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Majumdar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,475,696 B2, "Majumdar"), as evidenced by Ohbayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,005 B1, "Ohbayashi").

Majumdar is relied on to teach an imaging member comprising an image layer and a support; the image layer being an ink jet receiving material and the support comprising a paper sheet and a layer, wherein the layer comprises an inorganic particle such as mica having the claimed aspect ratio, and a resin such as polyvinyl alcohol.

Ohbayashi is relied upon to teach that the claimed ink receiving layer is conventional in the ink jet recording art and a water soluble resin such as polyvinyl alcohol, gelatin and cellulose is widely used in forming an ink receiving layer.

Claim 1 of the instant application, as amended, recites "An ink-jet recording medium comprising a support having disposed thereon at least one colorant-receiving layer, wherein an undercoat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more is provided under the colorant-receiving layer, and/or a back-coat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more is provided on a surface opposite to a

surface of the support having the colorant-receiving layer; wherein the laminar compound is water-swellaable synthetic mica; and wherein the colorant-receiving layer contains a water-soluble resin.”

Applicants are of the belief that neither Majumdar nor Ohbayashi teaches or suggests the use of polyvinyl alcohol as a binder in the colorant-receiving layer, as recited in the presently amended Claim 1.

Furthermore, to anticipate a claimed invention under section 102, a single prior art reference must disclose, either expressly or impliedly, all of the elements of the claimed invention. As neither Majumdar nor Ohbayashi teaches or discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 102 rejection and request the rejection be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Majumdar, in view of Ohbayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,005 B1, “Ohbayashi”). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As discussed above, the present Claim 1 of the instant invention requires that a laminar compound be water-swellaable synthetic mica. Majumdar discloses smectite clay as a preferred layered material. Mica is distinct from smectite. Specifically, mica is classified into a group different from the smectite according to the classification of clay minerals. “Clay Handbook”, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., edited by The Clay Science Society of Japan and published by Gihodo Shuppan Co., Ltd. A

Yasuhiro OGATA, *et al.*  
Appln. No. 10/830,044  
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

copy of Clay Handbook (relevant part) and its Japanese translation are attached hereto as Attachments B and C, respectively.

Water-swellaable synthetic mica show excellent effects in suppressing curl in a wide range of temperature and humidity conditions. Such effects are unexpected from Majumdar or Ohbayashi. The unexpectedly superior effects of water-swellaable synthetic mica over smectite are described in the attached Declaration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, executed by Yasuhiro Ogata. The Declaration of Yasuhiro Ogata is attached hereto as Attachment A.

As be seen in the Declaration, the ink-jet recording sheets comprising a water-sellaable synthetic mica (Examples 1-3) show unexpected, superior curling resistance compared to one comprising smectite (Comparative Example 3).

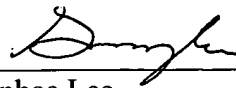
Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are not sustainable and it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Yasuhiro OGATA, *et al.*  
Appln. No. 10/830,044  
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Sunhee Lee  
Registration No. 53,892

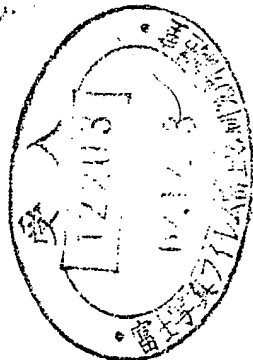
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 21, 2006



# 粘土ハンドブック

第二版

日本粘土学会  
編

技報堂出版



Translation of Table 2.1 on p. 13 of "Clay Handbook" 2nd ed., edited by The Clay Science Society of Japan and published by Gihodo Shuppan Co., Ltd.

Table 2.1 Classification of Laminar Silicate Salts Related to Clay Minerals (Based on AIPEA Nomenclature Committee)

Layer Type	Group (x representing layer charge in the structure unit)	Subgroup	Species*
1:1	kaolinite—serpentine (kaolin minerals)	Kaolinite	Kaolinite, dickite, halloysite
	x~0	Serpentine	Chrysotile, lizardite, amesite
2:1	Pyrophyllite-talc	Pyrophyllite	Pyrophyllite
	x~0	Talc	Talc
	Smectite	Diocahedral smectite	Montmorillonite, beidellite
	x~0.2-0.6	Triocahedral smectite	Saponite, hectorite, sauconite
	Vermiculite	Diocahedral vermiculite	Diocahedral vermiculite
	x~0.6-0.9	Triocahedral vermiculite	Triocahedral vermiculite
	Mica	Diocahedral mica	Muscovite, paragonite
	x~1	Triocahedral mica	Phlogopite, biotite, lepidolite
	Brittle mica	Diocahedral brittle mica	Margarite
	x~2	Triocahedral brittle mica	Clintonite, anandite
	Chlorite	Diocahedral chlorite	Donbassite
	x variable	Di,triocahedral chlorite	Cookeite, sudoite
		Triocahedral chlorite	Clinocllore, chamosite, nimite

\* Only a few examples are given